STRENGTHENING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM TO COMBAT TERRORIST TRAVEL

WHAT IS THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP)?



VWP CITIZENS can travel to U.S. without a visa for 90 days, still given background security checks.



U.S. CITIZENS

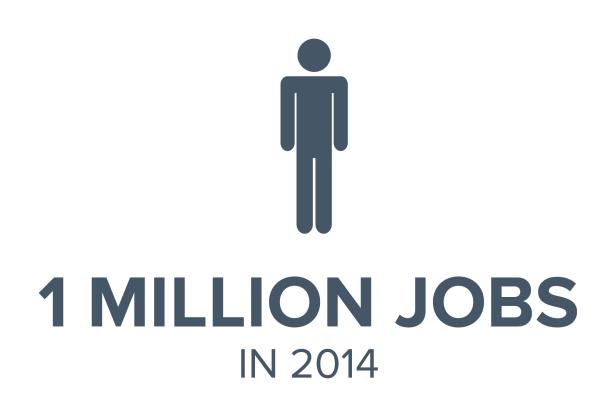
can travel to VWP

countries visa-free.

VWP has a big impact to **U.S. ECONOMY** through increased trade & tourism.







WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH VWP?



- After recent terror attacks in Europe, officals provided names to the U.S. Intel community that **WERE NOT KNOWN TO US.**
- **"5,000 Europeans** have gone to fight in Syria/Iraq—most are from VWP countries.
- Not every country is issuing all citizens secure, fraud resistant "E-PASSPORTS."
- Most travelers **NOT THOROUGHLY SCREENED** against INTERPOL databases.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT & TERRORIST TRAVEL PREVENTION ACT

THE SOLUTION:

TERMINATES VWP countries if they fail to share counterterrorism information.





TERMINATES vwp countries if they fail to screen travelers against INTERPOL criminal & terrorism databases.

DENIES VWP status to individuals who have gone to certain terrorist hotspots (e.g. **Syria**, **Iraq**) since 2011 or have dual-nationality in such countries.



REQUIRES all VWP countries to issue & screen fraud resistant "e-passports" to everyone.



REQUIRES annual threat assessments of high-risk VWP countries based on foreign fighter flow, visa denials, & terror database matches.

ALLOWS for suspension of high-risk countries until the threat has passed.